

MAJOR GENERAL AUGUSTUS
"LEON" COLLINS, ADJUTANT
GENERAL OF MISSISSIPPI

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleague Mr. MOULTON of Massachusetts to recognize Major General Augustus "Leon" Collins, commanding general of both the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard. Since 2012, Major General Collins has served as the Adjutant General of Mississippi and plans to retire at the beginning of September.

Major General Collins has served in the military for 35 years, starting as a private with Company B, 1st Battalion, 198th Armor Regiment. He completed officer candidate school and later served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. From 2004 to 2006, he commanded the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I have served with Major General Collins at nearly all levels of command. As a tank company commander, Captain Collins was one of the finest. His troops respected and loved him and accomplished tasks other units would not have dared to attempt. As a Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Collins led his Battalion to be one of the best. Finally, as a Brigade Commander of a Brigade Combat Team in Iraq, Brigadier General Collins continued his path of excellence. Brigadier General Collins led the 155th Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Rifles, in a full spectrum mission; his unit once again excelled because of his leadership and the high level of respect and trust he earned among his soldiers. He did this while many of his soldiers were impacted by the devastating news of Hurricane Katrina at home in Mississippi.

During Major General Collins' tenure in Iraq, he led two future congressmen. After we were elected to the 114th Congress, Mr. Moulton and I realized we had previously met while serving in Iraq with Major General Collins. This is representative of the diverse lives Major General Collins has led and mentored during his storied career.

As Major General Collins retires from the military, I know he will continue to be a leader in the state and nation. He has been a mentor and role model for a generation of soldiers in the Mississippi Army National Guard. I am honored to have served with him at all levels of command.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. MARY
JEZOWSKI-SURGE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Jezowski-Surge, a longtime Michigan resident, and an original Rosie the Riveter. Mary was born on September 1, 1922 and is celebrating her 94th birthday this year. Mary and the original Rosie the Riveters paved the way for women in the workforce, forever changing our nation with their bravery, grace and gusto.

In World War II, enlistment left gaping holes in the labor force, prompting women to join the ranks of male factory workers. These inspiring women were collectively nicknamed "Rosie the Riveter" and worked building planes, tanks, and other armaments for soldiers fighting abroad. Mary worked at the Cadillac Plant in Detroit building tanks for American troops. She began her time in the factory as a grinder, eventually becoming a welder. She recalls the thrill that came with climbing up on top of the tanks to do her welding. Mary eventually left the Cadillac Plant to begin work at the Lincoln Plant where she built airplane engines. More than 310,000 women joined the U.S. aircraft industry in 1943, comprising a stunning 65 percent of the aviation industry's total workforce. Mary and other women who worked in Michigan's aviation plants were honored for their efforts and have their names engraved on a plaque at Yankee Air Museum in Belleville, Michigan. The contributions of Mary and the original Rosie the Riveters made victory in World War II possible, and their patriotism and hard work will forever remain part of the American story.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Mary for her contributions to the war effort, and for her fearlessness as a trailblazer for women in the workforce. The values that Mary and the Rosies embodied—patriotism, bravery and resolve—are ones we all must strive to emulate. The Rosies are a vitally important part of American history, and their impact on the workforce will never diminish. Their story is one we will continue to share with our children and grandchildren for generations to come, and their spirit and legacy will forever remind us that we all wield the power to positively contribute to our country.

HONORING ANGELO TSAKOPOULOS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angelo Tsakopoulos on his 80th birthday for his legendary career in real estate development and his long history of philanthropy in California.

Born in Greece, Mr. Tsakopoulos came to America at 15, sailing into New York City under the inspiring gaze of the Statue of Liberty. He moved to Chicago to live with family, before eventually continuing west to the San Joaquin Valley in California. Encouraged by a close mentor to continue his education, Mr. Tsakopoulos studied political science and business at California State University, Sacramento.

While attending school, Mr. Tsakopoulos supported himself as a real estate salesman, foreshadowing his highly successful career in real estate development. Mr. Tsakopoulos founded AKT Development Corporation in Sacramento, California, which became a leading real estate developer in the area under his leadership and has built tens of thousands of homes and more than 30 million square feet of office space.

Mr. Tsakopoulos and his family have also been dedicated supporters of civic and community causes. The Tsakopoulos family has

donated land and funds to cultural institutions including the Greek Orthodox Church, the Crocker Art Museum, and the Roseville Arts Center. Mr. Tsakopoulos has also had a strong commitment to supporting education through the Angelo and Sofia Tsakopoulos Endowment Fund and as a co-chair for California State University, Sacramento's Capital Campaign. To support the study and celebration of Greek heritage and history, Mr. Tsakopoulos served as an instrumental figure in the creation of the S.B. Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism in Sacramento.

Mr. Speaker, Angelo Tsakopoulos has led a tremendously successful career and has become a leader in both business and community causes in our state. His work and philanthropy have left an indelible mark on Sacramento and our larger California community, and it is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Mr. Tsakopoulos here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 405, on July 12, 2016, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor. Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote on the motion to adjourn.

Had I been present, I would have voted NO.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
SACRIFICE OF MICHAEL SMITH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the life and sacrifice of a man who served his country and the city of Dallas humbly for over thirty years. On July 7, 2016, Michael Smith was the first of five Dallas public officers who were fatally shot during a protest in downtown Dallas. The shooting was a calculated and senseless act of violence intended to tear our community apart. Instead, our community has rallied to support Michael Smith's loved ones, and honor his legacy. Michael Smith's strong, humble, and loving life is the perfect representation of Dallas' resilience in times of duress.

Smith worked in the Dallas Police Department for over twenty-five years. During his time in the department, he gained a reputation for doing thorough and dependable work. He was recognized multiple times throughout his career, most notably winning the distinguished honor of being called the "Cops' Cop." The only thing that outweighed his work ethic at the department was his easygoing and affable manner. Prior to joining the Dallas Police Department, Smith served seven years as an Army Ranger, where he developed a strong sense of service and an unparalleled dedication to helping others.

Though Smith's record of public service is incredible, he was best known for his role in the community. On Sundays, he acted as a uniformed guard at the Watermark Church in